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Substitute
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I CLAIM:

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1. (Once Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:
a base having an upper side; and
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, a plurality of shift keys and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein said plurality of shift keys are located in a lower central portion of said array, grouped directly adjacent one another, and arranged in at least two of the multiple rows, said plurality of shift keys being adapted to be engaged by thumbs of a user, wherein one of said rows includes selected ones of said letter keys arranged to spell out at least two, consecutively arranged multi-letter words when read from left to right and wherein both the tab and backspace keys are centrally located within the letter keys.

2. (Once Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:
a base having an upper side; and
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, at least one shift key and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein one of said rows includes selected ones of said letter keys arranged to spell out at least two, consecutively arranged multi-letter words when read from left to right.

N.E.

3. The keyboard according to claim 2, wherein the language is English and the selected ones of said keys are selected from the group consisting of "R", "E", "A", "D", "O", "N", "T", "H", "I" and "S".

4. The keyboard according to claim 2, wherein the selected ones of said letter keys spell out three words when read from left to right.

5. The keyboard according to claim 4, wherein the language is English and the three words comprise "READ", "ON" and "THIS".

NE
6. The keyboard according to claim 5, wherein the one of said rows constitutes a home row in which fingers of a typist are adapted to be placed in an at rest condition.

Sub BB
7. (Once Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:
a base having an upper side; and
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, at least one shift key and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein both the tab and backspace keys are centrally located within the letter keys.

8. The keyboard according to claim 7, wherein the tab key and the backspace key are located in the same row.

9. The keyboard according to claim 8, wherein the tab key is located to the left of the backspace key.

N.E.
10. The keyboard according to claim 9, wherein the tab key is located directly adjacent the backspace key.

11. The keyboard according to claim 7, wherein the array includes a home row, both of said tab and backspace keys being located in a row above the home row.

NE 12. The keyboard according to claim 11, wherein the tab key and the backspace key are located in a third row down from a top of said base.

sub 35
c2
a3
cancel
13. (Once Amended) A keyboard for use in performing typing tasks comprising:
a base having an upper side; and
a plurality of keys arranged in an array, including multiple rows, on the upper side of said base, said keys including letter keys, a tab key, a backspace key, a plurality of shift keys and at least one function key, each of said letter keys corresponding to a respective letter of an alphabet of a language, wherein said plurality of shift keys are located in a lower central portion of said array, grouped directly adjacent one another, and arranged in at least two of the multiple rows, said plurality of shift keys being adapted to be engaged by thumbs of a user.

14. The keyboard according to claim 13, wherein said plurality of shift keys includes at least three separate shift keys.

15. The keyboard according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of shift keys includes four adjacent shift keys.

NE 16. (Once Amended) The keyboard according to claim 14, wherein said plurality of shift keys are arranged in only two different rows on the keyboard.

17. The keyboard according to claim 14, wherein said at least three separate shift keys are color coded.

18. The keyboard according to claim 14, wherein two of said at least three separate shift keys perform identical functions.

19. The keyboard according to claim 13, wherein at least one of said plurality of shift keys constitutes a lower most key in the array.